

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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## CHANNEL CURRENTS



### North Channel Area Chamber events

•The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce's 41st Annual Gala will be Friday, January 19, 2018 at the Houston Marriott Hotel located at 9100 Gulf Freeway. Social Hour begins at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm.

•Chamber Monthly Luncheon, Friday, February 2, 2018 at San Jacinto College North-Monement Room in the Student Center. Speaker: Commissioner Jack Morman, Pct. 2. Reserve at blanca@ncchamber.com

### Chili Feast

Highlands Rotary Club's 43rd Annual Chili Feast Raffle & Auction at St. Jude's Catholic Church, 808 S. Main Street, Highlands, 11 am - 3 pm. Live auction 12:30 p.m. Win a new 2018 Chevy Camaro or 2018 Chevrolet Equinox from Turner Chevrolet, Your Choice!. Call 713-252-8000 for tickets.

### Bunco fundraiser

Friday, March 23, 2018  
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Flukinger Center  
16003 Lorenzo  
Channelview

Enjoy an evening of dinner, bunco and silent auction while raising funds for the San Jacinto Pilot Club. Tickets are \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. Table sponsorships are available for \$100.

## Sylvia Garcia for Congress opens Campaign office



Senator Sylvia Garcia in the center, holding her campaign for Congress yard with Congressman Gene Green and supporters.

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – Saturday, January 6, 2018 Senator Sylvia Garcia had a Campaign For Congress Open House reception at her first campaign office. Supporters of all ethnicity turned out in large numbers to fill the building to capacity.

Congressman Gene Green opened the event by stating why he's enthusiastically supporting Garcia. He said, "it's important we elect Sylvia because she the most qualified candidate and because she knows the communities and the leaders of our communities in the district. We don't need to let someone

who's recently moved in and is wealthy, who's spending lots of money to buy the position and yet hasn't ever done anything for our communities and doesn't know our leaders." Green stated Sylvia's has a long record of achievements and experience in service to citizens and experience matters.

Senator Garcia spoke and said, "I promised to be a representative for all, no matter where you live, your income level, your race, who you know or who you love, we need to reject discrimination in every form. We need more candidates who will bravely stand up for women and the expansion of their op-

portunities. My campaign is about putting people first, I'll listen to your needs and eagerly go to work for you. Together we can restore the promise of America."

The office is at 7121 Harrisburg Blvd, Houston, will be open daily from 9am-8pm and can be called at 832-869-7529.

## Many Candidates competing for Green's Congressional Seat

The March 6th Primary election will see a large number of candidates competing for open Congressional seats. In Texas alone, eight seats are open, and the ones of most interest in this area area TX29, Gene Green's seat, and TX2, Ted Poe's seat.

Green is a Democrat, but seven Democrats and four Republicans will be on the ballot in March for this position.

Poe is a Republican, and nine Republicans and five Democrats will try to win a spot on the November general election for this position.

Also contested in the primary and general election will be Senator Ted Cruz, up for re-election after his



GENE GREEN



SYLVIA GARCIA



DOMINIQUE GARCIA



ROEL GARCIA



TAHIR JAVED



HECTOR MORALES

first six year term. He is opposed by four Republicans, and three Democrats including front-runner Beto O'Rourke from El Paso.

These elections have na-

tional significance, as the House and Senate could lose their Republican ma-

*See Many Candidates, page 8*

## Uncle and nephew shoot each other Both survive wounds



Deputies investigate outside the Channelview house where shooting took place.

CHANNELVIEW – An uncle and his nephew were shot when they exchanged fire at each other, deputies reported.

According to investigators, a 54-year-old man and his 19-year-old nephew got into a fight around 2:00 p.m. last Monday in the 14200 block of Nordic Drive near Uvalde.

One of the men left and came back, immediately shots were heard, Harris County Sheriff Office reported.

The uncle got shot in the leg and his nephew in the abdomen. Both men were taken to a hospital and are expected to make full recovery. The cause of the fight stills unknown.

## Galena Park Council meeting holds awards presentation

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – January 2, 2018 at 6 PM the Galena Park council meeting was called to order by Mayor Esmeralda Moya. After the opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the council approved the council meeting minutes of December 19th and the Accounts Payable through January 2, 2018.

The council approved hiring Gary Fisher as full-time and Melissa Galan as part-time police dispatchers.

The council approved hiring full-time Emerson Chavez in Ground Maintenance.

Cheryl Ponder of the Committee for a Better Galena Park presented Ellaine Underhill representing United Healthcare with a recognition award for their continued support to the Secret Santa Pro-

*See Award Presentation, page 8*



Ellaine Underhill, left, of United Healthcare receives award from Cheryl Ponder, right, of the Committee for a Better Galena Park.

## Alabama wins College Playoff, after Hurts benched

ATLANTA – College football fans watched a thrilling match on ESPN Monday night, between the No. 4 ranked Alabama Crimson Tide, and No. 3 ranked Georgia Bulldogs.

Alabama won the College Football Playoff in Overtime 26-23, but for most of the game it looked like Georgia would prevail in the outcome.

At halftime, the Bulldogs led the Tide by a score of 13-0, primarily because Alabama was unable to move the ball through the air, and the Georgia defense had held the Tide's ground game too. Hurts passing was 3 for 8, and only 21 yards in the first half. Normally known for his ability to run, the Bulldogs had prepared for that type of game. Hurts had won 25 games for Alabama playing that way.

Coach Nick Saban had a tough decision to make, and started the second half with Freshman Quarterback Tua Togavaioa instead of Hurts. As a result, Tua threw 3 passes for 166



QB TUA TOGAVAILOA



QB JALEN HURTS

yards to win. The game was tied at the end of the fourth quarter 20-20 and Alabama missed a point after sending the game into overtime. Georgia scored a field goal in the overtime period. Then trailing 23-20, Alabama stunned the Georgia fans with a 41 yard pass by Togavaioa to win 26-23. Alabama was thrilled, and Saban was vindicated, by winning his 5th College Championship for Alabama.

Channelview fans, who had followed Hurts from his days as the Falcons

quarterback to his start with the Crimson Tide, were disappointed that he did not lead Alabama to its victory. Hurts was the SEC Offensive Player of the Year last year, with 61 career touchdowns.

But Hurts, interviewed after the game, was congratulatory to Togavaioa, saying "I love you. This is what you're made for. You're built for this."

After the game, Saban said "We knew it would be a hard game. If you can't overcome hard, you're never going to have any great victories in your life."



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## District holds first Wellness Fair for Staff

By Susan Passmore

Goose Creek CISD hosted a Wellness Fair for all district employees in the Ross S. Sterling High School Commons the first day back from the holidays. The event, "Plug in the Pieces to Your Health," was designed to give staff tools for a healthy start to a new year.

Forty-six vendors and more than 350 employees attended the Wellness Fair, organized by GCCISD Human Resources and Benefits departments. Participating vendors were 24 Hour Fitness, AAA, AFLAC, Allstate Benefits, AMBA, Ameritas Vision, ARAG, AXA, Bayshore Hospital, Baytown YMCA, Camp Gladiator, Chick-fil-A, City of Baytown, Costco Wholesale, Eagle Pointe Recreation Center, First Financial, GCCISD Behavior and Mental Health, GCCISD Benefits, Goose Creek CISD Healthy Community School Coordinator, Gold's Gym, Grand Canyon University, Harris County Public Health and Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital.

Also participating were Humana Dental, Joint Chiropractic, Kelsey Sey-



Photos by Susan Passmore

**David Laughlin (right) from Horace Mann Junior School participates in a bone density screening with Mike Waddell from Bayshore Hospital at the first Wellness Fair for Goose Creek CISD employees.**

bold, Kroger, Lamar University, Lee College, Lee College Wellness, Metlife, MD Anderson, Rightway Imaging, Salata, Sam's Club, Smoothie King, Summit Dental Center, Sun Life, Texas Children's Health Care, The Rose, United Way, University of Houston Clear Lake, UNUM, UT Arlington Online, Village Family Practice and Weight Watchers.

"Stephanie Myers, benefits coordinator, and our staff did an excellent job of organizing the Wellness Fair, which made our employees aware of resources in the community they might not have known were out there," said Eloy Chapa, assistant superintendent for human resources. "We hope to provide another event of this type in the future to

allow even more vendors and employees to participate."

Door prizes, donated by the vendors, went to employees Sandra Adcock, Tara Aguilar, Letty Arredondo, Patricia Authement, Kevin Billings, Stephanie Boykin, Kim Bryant, Rosemary Calico-Hopson, Sarah Capestani, Tahnee Cornelius, Deanne Cummings,

Aracelie De La Cruz, Crystal Garcia, Norma Garcia, Brandi Gonzales, Frank Gonzales, Juan Gonzalez, Stella Gonzalez, Margie Grimes, Andrew Gross, Nikki Harrison and Ryan Heffernan.

Martha Herrera, Courtney Holt, Debbie Jackson, Maria Jimenez, Joel Kunz, Traviata Lewis, Constance Lunsford, Christina Marioneaux, Tammy Matejka,

Victoria McCoy, Brian McLemore, Nicole Mengo, Jennifer Miller, Rebekah, O'Banion, Elizabeth Perez, Tara Pohonly, Harley Preto, Laura Reyes, Maria Rival, Linda Rye, Allison Selensky, Carrie Smith, Stewart Howford, Cynthia Trevino, Jessica Vasquez, Mike Wagner, Tamera West, Angela Westbay and Mandi Whitaker also won door prizes.



**Carolynn Stanley, a teacher from Alamo Elementary, signs up for information as Priscila Garza (right,) healthy community school coordinator, and David Garza, a teacher from Horace Mann Junior School, demonstrate "Deskercises" at the recent Wellness Fair, held at Sterling High School for Goose Creek CISD employees.**

AREA'S BEST BUSINESS REVIEW

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We, the editors of this 2017 Area's Best Business Review offer this suggestion to the people in our area: So, whether or not you need a big grocery shopping trip, get your tire changed or pick-up a prescription, do what smart shoppers do...make WALMART your one-stop shopping headquarters for the best products, the largest selection and the ultimate in everyday bargains!

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Highlands Rotary Club's 43rd Annual CHILI FEAST Raffle & Auction

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Win a new 2018 CHEVY CAMARO or 2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX from Turner Chevrolet. YOUR CHOICE !!

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600th Ticket.....\$250 Gift Card

650th Ticket.....Yeti Cooler

699th Ticket.....42" TV

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Galena Park ISD honors Board of Trustees

January is School Board Recognition Month and Galena Park ISD is joining together to thank these seven volunteers for their commitment and dedication to our schools. Over the past year, the GPISD school board has been the named the Region IV School Board of the Year and was named a finalist for Texas Honor Boards as part of the 2017 Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) School Board Awards. We would like to thank President Jeff Miller, Vice President Wanda Heath Johnson, Secretary Minnie Rivera, Dawn Fisher, Wilfred J. Broussard, Jr., Joe Stephens and Ramon Garza for helping our students soar to success!



School Board Recognition Month honors efforts of Channelview ISD Trustees



Pictured from left, Superintendent Greg Ollis, Board Secretary Steven Dennis, Board Member Raquel Dobbins, Board Member Kyle Campbell, Board Vice President Patrick Lacy, Board Parliamentarian Keith Liggett, Board Member Alex Ybarra and Board President Greg Johnstone.

San Jacinto College Foundation receives \$100k for Harvey student aid

Grant awarded by the Greater Houston Community Foundation

HOUSTON – San Jacinto College students adversely affected by Hurricane Harvey will now be able to receive additional recovery assistance funds thanks to a grant awarded to the San Jacinto College Foundation by the Greater Houston Community Foundation from the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund. Founded by Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, the fund was created to channel the exceptional generosity and compassion of Houston and Harris County area residents, as well as companies, foundations and individuals from across the United States, into tangible ways to help their neighbors in need as soon as possible. The fund's second distribution of \$28.9 million in November consisted of donated funds to 90 local non-profit organizations that will provide financial aid and services to Houston/Harris County flood victims. Since its founding after the hurricane, the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund has collected more than \$100

million and has distributed more than \$36 million. "We are honored and grateful to have been selected as a grant recipient of the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund," said Ruth Keenan, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director of advancement. "The East Harris County area, the College's district, was heavily impacted by Harvey's flooding, and hundreds of our students suffered substantial losses. We struggled to provide disaster relief assistance to those most affected, but the demand was greater than our resources. These grant funds will help us provide much needed relief to students already on our waiting list and additional students who were affected. On behalf of our students who lost books, computers, clothing, furniture, vehicles and homes, I'd like to express our sincere gratitude to the Greater Houston Community Foundation and the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund advisory committee for allowing us to provide our students with financial support and a measure of

hope in their time of need." Within 24 hours of Hurricane Harvey's devastating aftermath, the San Jacinto College Foundation went into action to assist students and employees that were severely affected by the natural disaster. In a matter of minutes, the San Jacinto College Emergency Relief Fund was established for students as a resource for assistance and for community members to have a means to directly give back to the community they call home. Within 72 hours of opening applications for assistance, more than 900 applications were received. Students also had additional resources for lost textbooks with the help of Barnes & Noble for the San Jacinto College Emergency Relief Textbook Fund. Barnes & Noble provided up to \$250 per student who qualified for textbook assistance. To date the San Jacinto College Foundation has raised \$177,826 for the College's Emergency Relief Fund with nearly 350 students receiving disaster and textbook relief assistance.

The month of January is School Board Recognition Month and the Channelview Independent School District is celebrating the contributions of these dedicated community leaders. "Our board members are a vital link between the community and the classroom," Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis said. "They volunteer their time and energy to ensure that all of our students receive the best education possible." Channelview ISD board

members include Board President Greg Johnstone, Vice President Patrick Lacy, Secretary Steven Dennis, Parliamentarian Keith Liggett and members Kyle Campbell, Raquel Dobbins and Alex Ybarra. The seven-member board is elected by Channelview ISD voters and serves the community without pay. Board members establish the policies and provide the framework for the operations of


the school district. As part of their leadership roles, Channelview board members are constantly broadening their knowledge by attending conferences and seminars focusing on issues in public education. "Setting aside time in January is one small way to celebrate the service of our board members," Ollis said. "We appreciate their dedication to all of the children enrolled in our schools."

Channelview's Childs signs with Southern



Channelview High School Falcon Football four-year letterman and first team All-District offensive lineman Bernard "Duce" Childs recently signed his letter of intent to play for Southern University in Baton Rouge in the fall. Childs attended Harvey Brown Elementary, Hamblen Elementary, Aguirre Junior High and CHS during his school career. He is the son Bernard Childs, Sr. and wife Cheryl.

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# OPINION PAGE

## Social Security Matters

By AMAC  
Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor  
Association of Mature American Citizens

*Ask Rusty - When Should I Apply for Social Security*

**Dear Rusty:** I will be turning 62 in 2018; birth date 9/24/1955. My husband is 77 and receiving Social Security. Longevity runs in my family. I have been self-employed all my life. I am still working and my husband collects a pension, Social Security and RMD from a traditional IRA, so there is no need for additional monies under my current circumstances. When should I start taking Social Security? Signed: Thinking about Retirement

**Dear Thinking:** The question of when to take Social Security normally gets an answer of "It depends on your health, your family history of longevity, and your need for the money". You've already addressed those items so I'll focus on your main question - when should you start taking Social Security?

Even though you'll be eligible to collect Social Security when you turn 62, if you do so you will only get 74.17% of the retirement benefit you would be entitled to at your full retirement age (FRA). Whenever you apply, you will be deemed to be filing not only for your own retirement benefit but also any spousal benefit you may be entitled to from your husband's work record. Similar to your SS retirement benefit, your spousal benefit would also be reduced because you took it early; instead of being 50% of your husband's benefit at your FRA, you would only get 35% at age 62 (if that is larger than your own retirement benefit). The point I'm making is that by claiming SS early, any benefit you're entitled to will be reduced from what you would get at your full retirement age.

Just as you are penalized for claiming before your full retirement age, you are rewarded for waiting beyond it to claim Social Security retirement benefits. In fact, for each year you wait beyond your full retirement age, your retirement benefit will be 8% higher than it would be at your FRA. That will continue up until you are 70 years old when your retirement benefit will be 30.67% higher than it would have been at your FRA. You stop earning additional credit at age 70, so there's no reason to wait beyond that to apply. Let's use an easy example to illustrate: If your FRA retirement benefit is

\$1000, by applying at age 62 you would only get \$741 per month instead of \$1000. But if you wait until you are 70 to claim benefits, you would get \$1306 per month, nearly twice what you would get by applying at age 62.

There are two other factors you should incorporate into your thinking:

1) At your FRA, you will be entitled to \_ of your husband's benefit at his FRA. If your spousal benefit at your FRA is substantially more than your own retirement benefit, then applying at your FRA may be a good strategy, as opposed to waiting and earning delayed retirement credits.

2) Once you have reached your FRA you will be entitled to 100% of your husband's benefit amount if he should predecease you. If your eventual survivor's benefit would be more than your own FRA benefit amount, you might be better served by claiming your retirement benefit earlier than age 70.

As you can see, most of the answer to your question depends upon whether your benefits as a spouse or a survivor will be more than your benefit based upon your own work record. If not, then waiting beyond your FRA up to age 70 will yield you the maximum retirement benefit. But if your spouse and/or survivor's benefit will be more than your own retirement benefits, then applying at your full retirement age may be the best strategy. If you haven't already done so, I suggest you go to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) and set up your personal "My Social Security" account which will give you access to your currently estimated retirement benefit. Comparing that to your potential spousal and survivor benefits should give you the answer you're seeking.

*The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government.*



## FEMA clears way for public assistance to churches that aid in disasters

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Jan. 3 announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency's approval of their request to allow churches and religious organizations to receive the same public assistance available to other nonprofits aiding in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

FEMA's Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide previously offered assistance to private nonprofit organizations, including zoos, performing arts centers and museums, and excluded facilities established or primarily used for religious activities. The revised policy is in force for any major disaster declared on or after Aug. 23, 2017.

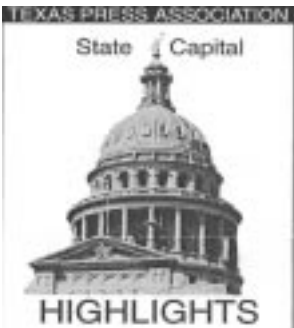
Abbott and Paxton sent a letter to President Donald Trump in September urging him to authorize this assistance.

"When Harvey moved across the Texas Gulf Coast, churches across the state opened their doors to those in need," Abbott said. "Churches and other houses of worship continue to play a vital role in the ongoing recovery effort, and their ability to receive the same assistance available to other nonprofits should never have been in doubt. I thank FEMA and the Administration for their commitment to helping Texans and the churches that have helped their communities throughout the recovery and rebuilding process."

"FEMA's policy change averts the federal government violating the constitutional rights of those who continue to play a vital role in helping Texans get back on their feet after Hurricane Harvey," Paxton said. "Many churches and other houses of worship suffered damage from Harvey, and now they can seek FEMA assistance so they can continue serving their communities."

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



### Oaths are administered

Now-former Texas Supreme Court Justice Don R. Willett, nominated by President Trump and approved by the U.S. Senate to fill a vacancy on the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and James Davis Blacklock, Willett's replacement on the Texas Supreme Court, both were sworn in on Jan. 2.

Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht administered the oath to Willett, who served more than 12 years on the Texas Supreme Court. Willett will take his place on the Fifth Circuit, the New Orleans-based federal appellate court with jurisdiction over appeals from U.S. district courts in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Gov. Abbott swore in Blacklock, who he appointed to succeed Willett on the state's high court. Prior to the appointment, Blacklock served as the governor's general counsel.

### 2017 revenue is reported

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Jan. 3 reported that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.75 billion in December, 12.3 percent more than reported in December 2016.

"Double-digit growth in sales tax revenue was fueled by collections from oil- and gas-related sectors as

well drilling and completion continued to rebound, but growth in tax receipts was notable across all major economic sectors, including retail trade and restaurants," Hegar said.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in December 2017 was up 10.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago. Sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections.

Revenue from other major taxes on motor vehicle sales and rentals, motor fuels and oil and natural gas production also rose in December 2017, according to the Office of the Comptroller.

For example, motor vehicle sales and rental taxes totaled \$414.3 million, up 16.1 percent from December 2016, and vehicle purchases to replace cars damaged by Hurricane Harvey continued to boost those tax collections, the agency noted.

Also, motor fuel taxes, at \$303.7 million, were up 4.9 percent from December 2016; and oil and natural gas production taxes, at \$396.4 million, were up 73.4 percent from December 2016.

### Abbott issues proclamation

Gov. Abbott on Jan. 5 proclaimed January 2018 to be Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

"The State of Texas will not tolerate the inhumane practices carried out by coercive and manipulative criminals. We provide serious penalties for human traffickers, and we continuously look for ways to better serve the victims," Abbott states in the text of the proclamation.

Abbott urged Texans "to learn more about the risks and indicators of human trafficking and to do their part in helping end this atrocity."

### Former first lady dies

Rita Crocker Clements, a force for decades in the Republican Party, died Jan. 6 at her home in Dallas. She was 86.

Clements was first lady of Texas twice, serving alongside her husband, Gov. Bill Clements, from 1979 to 1983, and again, from 1987 to 1991. Gov. Clements died in 2011 at age 94.

Mrs. Clements was noted for her role in renovating the governor's mansion in Austin, for her service on the boards of several major corporations and as a member of the University of Texas System Board of Regents.

TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie A. Farrar

Here is one I did back on the 47th day of 2003.

Me and the Mrs. went out to Bush country this past weekend (presidential, mesquite and tumble weed.)

Flew out to Midland, Texas and then drove on to Big Spring, Texas. Midland is the home of George Bush and we went by his old homestead; managed to get a couple of photos as well of the little house on the corner cross the street from the Methodist Church.

Might not be a big deal to you but I was out there to visit my Uncle J. C. from my hometown in Georgia who lives over in Big Spring, Texas. Ain't no S at the end of Spring.

Beautiful country out in West Texas and I must say it adds to the beauty of this great country. They don't get much rain out there but it is still pretty country with lots of sodbusters, retired oil field equipment and you name it.

Saw miles and miles of bare cotton, maize, wheat fields, and a lot of tractor riding; dry country out there now I'm telling you.

Uncle J. C. said he ain't had a crop in five years; lack of rain really hurts. That is cotton country for sure, 50 pound of seed per acre. You priced diesel fuel lately?

Riding out on the highway from here and yonder, I was admiring the zillion pieces of plastic snagged on the mesquite brush inside the fence line with lots of blue pieces from some store Uncle J. C. mentioned.

Lots of fence lines to look at out there when a gate came into view. There were two coyote strung out over the strands of barbwire on each side of the gate.

Uncle J. C. said they have their share of coyotes, prairie dogs and rattlesnakes.

Driving out to the barn we come across and scattered a bunch of dove. I have never seen that many dove in one place at one time in my life. The dove broke and flew in a wide circle and came back to rest on a nearby fence line. Wish we had had the windows down now so I could have heard the drone from that many birds taking flight. Words can't describe the view of that many birds and pleasure I had from seeing them. I got a shot at them with my camera.

Getting out on the country roads, many fence lines along the road are lined with dirt from the dust storms. These would make a good bunker and some of the dirt had drifted up near top of the fence posts.

Folks plant cedar bush and trees around the perimeter of the house to help block some of the dust from the storms.

Acres and acres of farmland all plowed up this time of year, they cut down 14 inches during plowing and rows are already formed. Some may have to plow again if a good dust storm comes up or so I heard.

There are so many oil pumping wells out in the Permian Basin and we was amongst them while riding out in the country.

An odor was noticed a couple of times out in the middle of nowhere but I kept my mouth shut but I sure looked at Uncle J. C.

The second time I gave him a hard look and he never said a thing even though he is hard of hearing. About a mile on down the rode to the turnoff, we had to turned around because the road was bad and could not travel down it.

Uncle J. C. asked, "You smell that sour gas?"

I had noticed signs that said poison gas as we rode by.

I told him "I thought it was you."

He looked at me and said, "I can do better than that."

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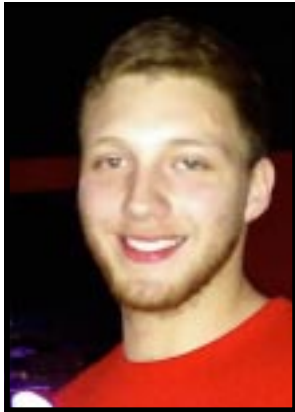
★  
OBITUARIES

JOSHUA ASHTON  
MCKINNEY

Joshua Ashton McKinney, 19, of Highlands was born May 5, 1998, in Houston and passed away December 31, 2017. He attended Goose Creek Memorial High School and was a 2016 graduate of the Texas ChalleNGe Academy. He was attending Lee College and had his sights set on his ultimate goal...to become a U. S. Marine.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Natividad and Maria Castilleja. He is survived by his parents, Minerva Barboza and Aaron McKinney; sisters, Melissa Barboza and Caylen McKinney; brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Cristy Barboza; grandparents, Joye and Chuck McCallum; nieces, Amiya and Allison; cousins, Haley and Chase; and many more loved ones who adored Joshua.

His family will receive friends at Navarre Funeral Home Wednesday, January 10, 2018, beginning at



12 Noon with a service to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Lance Richards officiating. Burial will follow at White Cemetery in Highlands.

Serving as pallbearers will be J. D. Brown, Steven Castilleja, Colby Neal, Halil Odun, C. J. Wingate, and Matthew Wingate.

To view the online obituary or to post a tribute for the family, go to [www.navarefuneralhome.com](http://www.navarefuneralhome.com)

Arrangements are under the direction and personal care of Navarre Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 2444 Rollingbrook Dr., Baytown, TX, 77521 (281) 422-8111.

St. Martin de Porres church in Barrett Station

“To love is to serve”




The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, located at St. Martin de Porres church in Barrett Station, Crosby, Texas, (12606 Crosby Lynchburg Rd.) was in dire need of assistance. The society needed help in getting things moved around in the food pantry. Terrence Narcisse of the EHCEC helped in putting the society in contact with a group of students from Little Rock Christian Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas. These students were in the Houston area during their January term. The group partnered with Mission Discovery to assist those affected by the floods of Hurricane Harvey and consisted of 27 students and their chaperons. While in the Houston area, these students served in community gardens, local relief centers, and helped with rebuilding homes in third ward Houston. St. John the Divine Episcopal Church (2450 River Oaks Blvd, Houston, TX 770190) hosted the group. The school plans to send another large group of students later this year. Their motto is “To love is to serve”. What a wonderful model for us all. Thank you Dr. Justin Smith, students, and chaperons of Little Rock Christian Academy!

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

—There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

HEBREWS 4:13,14



Detail of "Hand of God" by Closs Loughran (1952)

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Samaria in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Judges 11, what judge of Israel

was a prostitute's son? Hosea, Jephthah, Samson, Lot

3. The 10 Commandments' tables (tablets) had writing on which sides? Front only, Both sides, Back only
4. From Esther 1, what king did Esther

marry? Jehu, Omri, Ahasuerus, Zedekiah

5. Who asked, "If a man die, shall he live again"? Samuel, Judas, Job, Stephen
6. From 2 Kings 23, where was King Josiah killed? Megiddo, Anathoth, Philadel-

phia, Jericho

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Jephthah; 3) Both sides; 4) Ahasuerus; 5) Job; 6) Megiddo

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John 7:38

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but wisdom is found in  
those who take advice.


God is our refuge  
and strength, a  
very present help  
in trouble  
Psalm: 46:1

★  
OBITUARIES

**REINHARDT  
HENRY ZWAHR JR.**

Reinhardt Henry Zwahr Jr., 84, of Huffman, died at home on January 8, surrounded by his family. He was born on September 14, 1933 in Brenham, Texas to Reinhardt Adolf Zwahr Sr. and Rosie Weckworth Zwahr.

A child of the Great Depression, responsible living was instilled in him from the earliest age. The son of a carpenter/farmer, he learned the value of hard work and flexibility while growing up as one of four sons in Crosby. He met his beloved wife Esther aged 12, when they were partnered together for the annual Maypole dance. They married shortly after graduation from Crosby High School, enjoying a long and happy marriage blessed by two sons. When his country called him to serve aged 21, he answered without hesitation, serving two years in the Battery C 425th AAA Battalion. After being honorably discharged, he embarked on a long career in the chemical plant industry, first with ARCO Chemical, where he retired as shift superintendent after 29



years. Not finding the quiet life to his taste, he then worked a further 10 years at Texas Petrochemical. Throughout his life he was known for being honest, responsible, authoritative – and right 99.9% of the time! He charmed everyone he knew with stories about the ‘old days’, and loved spending time in Brenham, on the rural land his German ancestors settled over 100 years ago. Hunting and fishing were his favorite pastimes; he was a member of the Bull Creek Hunting Club for over 50 years, and this is where some of his most cherished friendships were formed. Above all however, he will be remembered for being utter-

ly devoted to his wife, right up to the moment he fell gravely ill. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brothers Delano Zwahr, of Huntsville, and Earl Zwahr of Thicket.

Those left to cherish his memory include his devoted wife of 63 years, Esther Leazer Zwahr; son Ronald Zwahr and his wife Sandra, of Kingwood; son Gary Zwahr of Huffman; granddaughter Amber Zwahr and her husband Antoine Froger, of London; grandson Aaron Zwahr of Austin; brother Kenhardt Zwahr of Dayton, and many other extended family and friends. A visitation for family and friends will be held at Sterling-White on Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 5pm-8pm. Funeral services will be held at Sterling-White on Friday, January 12, 2018 11am with interment to follow at Sterling-White Cemetery. Services have been entrusted to Sterling-White Funeral Home 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, Texas 77562. To send the family condolences please visit [www.sterlingwhite.com](http://www.sterlingwhite.com).

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ROMANS 8:18

All of them were filled with  
the Holy Spirit and began to  
speak in other tongues as the  
Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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Be alert. Continue strong in  
the faith. Have courage  
and be strong.  
1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the  
aged, show respect for the  
elderly and revere your God.  
Leviticus 19:32



# ASK THE EXPERT

## Diamond Jim: "What is the history of jewelry?"



### ASK DIAMOND JIM

Here's a Timeline of Jewelry

110,000 - 73,000 BC - Decorative sea shell beads found in the archeological digs in Morocco. They were probably used as amulets. Drilled shells have also been found in Israel, Algeria and South Africa.

38,000 BC - Beads made from bone and animal teeth found in France.

28,000 BC - Fossilized shells and ivory beads found in the East Gravettian culture, located in modern Czech Republic.

4400 BC - Around the time of first domesticated animals and invention of wheel, ancient Thracian civilization produced oldest known objects made from gold.

5000- 30 BC - Use of copper starts a new era in jewelry production, and secrets of alluvial gold gathering arrives in Egypt around 4000 BC. They quickly start producing glazed steatite beads and countless jewelry designs based on scarab beetles, scrolls, winged birds, tigers, jackals and antelopes. Popular gemstones of that

time were carnelian, feldspar, amethyst, chalcedony, lapis lazuli and turquoise.

2750 - 1200 BC - Ancient Mesopotamia produced wide range of jewelry based on the design of lives, grapes, cones and spirals. Gemstones that they used were agate, lapis, jasper and carnelian.

1400 - 30BC - Greek jewelry was made in the style of animals and shells and was infused with the amethysts, pearls, chalcedony, cornelian, garnet and emeralds.

500 BC - 400 AD - Ancient Roma preferred seal rings, brooches, amulets and talismans that were infused with the designs of animals and coiling snakes. Most popular gemstones were sapphires, emeralds, pearls, amber, garnets, jet and diamonds.

400 - 1000 AD - In European Dark Ages use of jewelry was not common, except among higher nobility and royalty.

1066 - 1485 - Medieval jewelry finally become widespread by the help of religion. The most famous designs of that time were hair and cloth jewelry that was worn during religious

ceremonies. They were adorned with gemstones such as rubies, sapphires, pearls, emeralds, semi-precious stones and diamonds.

1500 -1830 - Arrival of Renaissance and Georgian time period brought rise of jewelry use in entire Europe. Necklaces (single or multi strand), earrings (ordinary or with chandeliers), and many other designs were decorated with the images of animals. Intricately designed gemstones became very popular to the point that diamond jewelry became commonly used as a part of evening attire.

1835 - 1900 - Reign of English Queen Victoria had a profound effect of fashion and jewelry tastes in Europe.

Early 1900s - These years were remembered for the Art Nouveau and Edwardian styles.

1920 - 1935 - Roaring Twenties brought the rise of the Art Deco, which introduced jewelry of vibrant colors, filled with geometrical shapes, abstract designs, cubism, modernism and oriental art. It also popularized wearing of wristwatches.

1939 - 1949 - Because of influence of World War II and widespread embargoes on gemstones, popular jewelry shifted to the more metal based designs adorned with patriotic motifs and semi-precious and synthetic gemstones.

1950s - Post war years saw the return of brightly colored jewelry, heavy use of rhinestones and big beads. Diamonds solidified its spot as the most popular gemstone.

(StatePoint) Affordable housing is in high demand in cities and counties nationwide. Experts say that areas grappling with affordable housing issues may find factory-built homes to be a powerful tool in addressing this need.

Built in a factory and delivered to home sites, this efficient process translates into lower production costs that are passed on to the consumer. The good news is while manufactured homes cost less than site-built homes they are just as high quality. The average new manufactured home costs around \$70,600. The cost for a smaller new single-section home can be as low as \$20,000. In 2016, manufactured homes accounted for 80 percent of all new homes sold under \$150,000.

Unfortunately, when many people think of manufactured housing, the old stereotype of a run-down trailer park enters their minds. However, most of the more than 37,000 manufactured housing communities in the U.S. are a far cry from that negative image, boasting amenities like community centers, organized activities and children's play areas. Other benefits may include:

- The option to rent an existing home in the community or place your own home in the community.
- Provided services, which often include professional property management, care and maintenance of common grounds, as well as resources and amenities like trash removal, community centers, playgrounds, storage and laundry facilities.
- The possibility of not paying real estate taxes. While it varies state-to-state, residents of land-



lease manufactured home communities often don't pay real estate taxes, but rather, pay a personal-property tax, offsetting the cost of land-lease rents for the homeowner.

- Affordable homeownership, along with many of its benefits, including control over home and yard improvements, as well as convenient parking.
- A sense of community.

In many communities, there are social or activity clubs, fitness amenities, and friendly and caring neighbors. Indeed, "sense of belonging" is among the most frequent responses about why residents enjoy living in a land-lease community.

Newer manufactured homes come in a variety of architectural styles and exterior finishes that will suit most any buyer's desires, as well as customization opportunities, including interior features like vaulted ceilings, fireplaces and state-of-the-art kitchens and baths.

They also feature enhanced energy efficiency in an era of rising energy costs, thanks to upgraded insulation and more efficient heating and cooling

systems than homes from decades ago.

Smart buyers also are turning to ENERGY STAR-labeled manufactured homes for additional savings.

Modern manufactured homes are among the safest housing choices today, as homes must adhere to strict federal building standards. All aspects of construction are continually inspected by professionally trained third-parties, and homes feature smoke detectors, and limited combustible materials around furnaces, water heaters and kitchen ranges, as well as wind resistance in areas prone to hurricane-force winds.

"The need for quality, affordable housing has never been greater. However, today's manufactured homes are high-quality and cost up to 50 percent less per square foot than conventional site-built homes," says Richard Jenkinson, president and CEO of the Manufactured Housing Institute. "These savings are allowing more Americans to own a home in the face of an ever-widening housing affordability gap."

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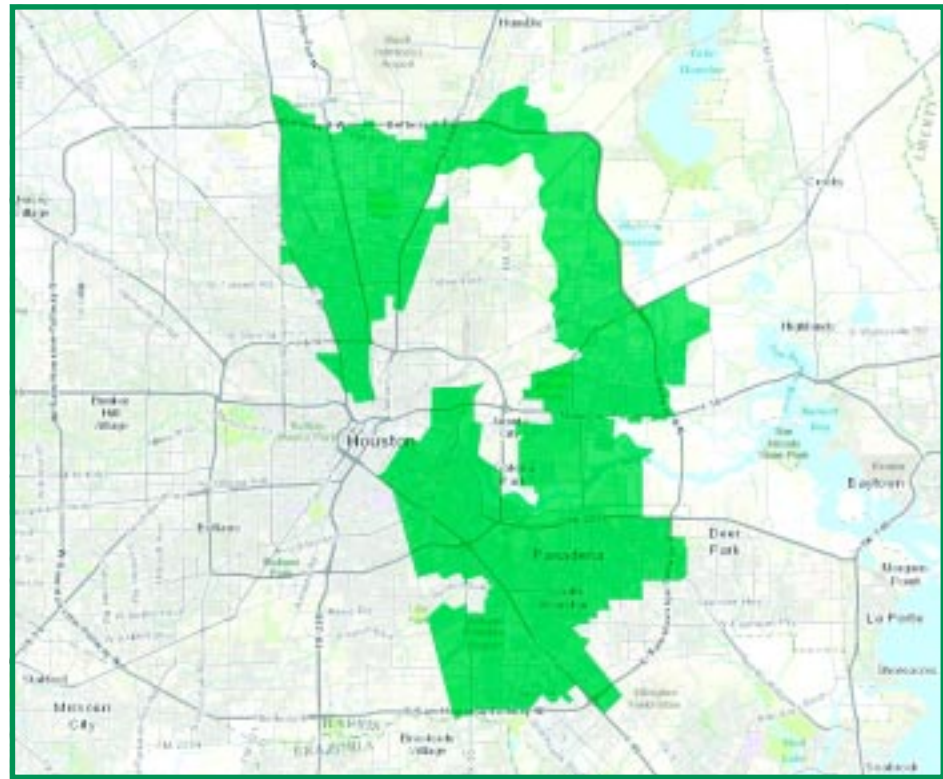




# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Many Candidates Compete,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The 29th Congressional District of Texas runs in a circular manner, from North Houston, Aldine, through East Harris County communities such as Baytown, Galena Park, Jacinto City, Pasadena and South Houston.

majorities in November.

Another interesting Texas race is the governor, where 10 Democrats are running in the primary to oppose Governor Greg Abbott, and two Republicans.

Because of the large numbers of candidates running in each of these races, it is anticipated that there will be a run-off election in some, which is scheduled for May 22.

Candidates for the TX29 seat given up by retiring Congressman Gene Green include Democratic front-runner State Senator Sylvia Garcia, real estate agent Dominique Garcia, Houston Attorney Roel Garcia, school teacher Hector Morales, and Beaumont area businessman Tahir Javed.

The 29th District was

originally set-up to represent the 77% Hispanic population in that area of Harris County, and runs from Greenspoint and Aldine through East Harris County and Pasadena. It includes all of the cities of Galena Park, Jacinto City, and South Houston, and parts of Baytown, Houston, and Pasadena. With all the Garcia-named candidates running, there is a strong possibility this year that an Hispanic will end up as the candidate. Up until now Gene Green, a non-Hispanic, has won the seat every 2 years since 1992, a testament to his responsiveness to his constituents and their needs. The first year, 1992, he won by only 180 votes out of 31,000 cast in a run-off, but since then he has had

solid victories. The population of the 29th District is approximately 758,000 people.

Since all the Democratic candidates but Javed have Hispanic names and heritage, it is likely that this district will finally be represented in Congress by a Hispanic, and perhaps a woman. State Senator Sylvia Garcia laughs at so many Garcias running, and says “You’re talking to the real Garcia” when asked to comment. Green has endorsed Sylvia Garcia for the position shortly after announcing his retirement. One other possible candidate was State Representative Armando Walle, who worked for Green for several years, but Walle has decided to

## Awards Presentation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gram.

Ponder said, “the Committee for a Better Galena Park has sponsored the Secret Santa Program since 2014, for the past three years United Healthcare has adopted families with needy children.”

“United Healthcare employees go out and purchase gifts for the needy kids, what makes their help this year so special, some of the employees are displaced from their homes because of Hurricane Harvey but they still took care of the children,” Ponder said.

The Committee for a Better Galena Park supervises the food pantry located at 1702 3 RD Street that provides food to qualifying citizens. Citizens desiring the pantries goods must first complete and application where they’ll be required to provide proof of residency and disclose their household income to determine if they qualify.

return to the State Legislature instead.

Two candidates will be on the Republican primary ballot, Robert Schafranek and Phillip Aronoff. However, the voters in the district are heavily Democratic.

In District 2, retiring Congressman Ted Poe’s seat will be competed for by Rick Walker, Kathaleen Wall, David Balat, and six other Republicans and five Democrats.

Early voting for the Primary starts February 20th, earlier than most other states, and may determine the outcome. It is expected that nearly half the votes will be cast early.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Galena Park Senior Dance

Senior Dance is every Monday at the Alvin D. Building, 1302 Keene St., Galena Park. 7 pm - 9 pm. No cover charge. Live band Country music. Call for more information: 713-455-7335.

### North Shore Senior Dance

North Shore Seniors holds a dance every Thursday from 1 - 4 pm at the Grayson/Baldree Building, Corpus Christi street. Live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$ 5/per person. For more information call 713-455-3660.

### The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

### San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at Amegy Bank on I-10, at noon. For more information, please visit [www.SanJacintoPilot.com](http://www.SanJacintoPilot.com).

### Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club

This newly chartered club meets on on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Woodforest Presbyterian Church. For more information, see the Facebook page entitled Evening San Jacinto Pilot Club or call 832-264-1565 / 832-289-4762.

### Trip Israel

Join Wayne & Patsy Moss on a trip to ISRAEL! March 2018. Call for more information. 281-447-4307.

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